

**MINUTES**  
*of the*  
**SANTA BARBARA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**WORKSHOP MEETING**

**DATE:** April 13, 2004

**PLACE:** 550 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair John Britton, Directors Brian Fahnestock, David Davis, Olivia Rodriguez and Interim General Manager Sherrie Fisher

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Browning Allen and Dan Secord (City of Santa Barbara), Dale Hill and Andy Eklov (E-Bus) Jerry Estrada, Lynnette Coverly, David Damiano, and Barbra Nelson (MTD).

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- 1. Call to Order**  
Chair John Britton called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
- 2. Roll Call of the Board of Directors**  
Chair Britton noted that all Board members were present except Director Lee Moldaver.
- 3. Report Regarding Posting of Agenda**  
Board Clerk Barbra Nelson reported that the agenda for this meeting was posted at the MTD administrative headquarters and on the MTD Website last week and mailed to media of general circulation.
- 4. Approval of Prior Minutes**  
Director Olivia Rodriguez moved to waive the reading of, and approve the minutes of March 30, 2004. Director Brian Fahnestock seconded the motion, which passed with 3 ayes and one abstention.
- 5. Cash Report**  
Director David Davis moved to accept the Cash report for March 23, through April 5, 2004. Director Fahnestock seconded the motion. Director Fahnestock asked if the energy costs could be broken down to diesel and electric, so a comparison could be done in relation to the South Coast Transit Priorities. Controller Jerry Estrada said he would add that breakdown to the quarterly financial report.
- 6. Public Comment**  
Steve Musick objected to the way MTD has handled the MTD Calle Real property, that he stated was land purchased by Federal money. Director Davis responded that once the closed session discussions are completed, the Calle Real property issues would be put on the agenda for public input.  
  
Dale Hill of E-Bus announced that they had brought a 22-foot hybrid (electric-diesel) bus from Downey to demonstrate to the Board. Director Fahnestock asked the cost. Mr. Hill said it was \$284,000 for a 22-foot bus that would seat 22 passengers and would meet the 2005-2007 California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards for emissions. General Manager Sherrie Fisher noted that it was basically the same as the Cross Town Shuttle, but it was set up as a transit bus. Dr. Secord asked if this was something new or experimental. Controller Jerry Estrada noted that it was approved by CARB because it was a 22-foot vehicle, but the 30-foot and 40-foot hybrid buses were still not approved.
- 7. Federal Earmarked Funds for Cold Weather Testing**  
The General Manager explained that MTD was chosen for a \$300,000 grant to test the Stingray in cold weather that Congressman Oberstar of Duluth, Minnesota had promoted and coordinated with former General Manager Gary Gleason. Ms. Fisher noted that although we are very honored and excited about the grant, MTD is also concerned about the perception in the community of a conflict. Ms. Fisher suggested two options: 1) through another transit agency who is a FTA recipient and 2) through a think tank like Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Director Rodriguez asked about the timeline for receiving the

money. Controller Jerry Estrada reported the funding bill should be authorized at the end of the month and, at that point, MTD could apply. Mr. Estrada recommended not waiting another year. Director Davis moved to work at finding another grantee to receive the funds and to partner with them. Director Fahnestock seconded the motion, which passes unanimously.

**8. Discussion of formation of *Ad Hoc* Committees**

Chair Britton appointed Director Fahnestock to the *ad hoc* Financial Advisory Committee to work with the Controller and he appointed Directors Rodriguez and Moldaver to the *ad hoc* Union Negotiations' Committee.

**9. Resolution 04-4 Renewal of contract with Santa Barbara Bank and Trust for "Deposit of Moneys"**

General Manager Sherrie Fisher announced that Controller Jerry Estrada would be the acting Assistant General Manager. Mr. Estrada noted that this resolution is routine and insures that all funds are collateralized. Ms. Fisher said the agreement could be terminated with a notice of 120 days. Director Fahnestock moved to accept the resolution. Director Davis seconded the motion, which passed with a roll call vote of 4 ayes with one Director absent.

**10. General Manager's Report**

(This item was moved to after item 12 to accommodate attendees)

The General Manager noted that there was a written report sent out in Board packets. In addition, Ms. Fisher reported that the Downtown Waterfront Shuttle (DWE) contract with the City of Santa Barbara (City) was authorized by the City Council and that the City is considering a rate increase to 50 cents. The City Planning Manager Browning Allen stated that the contract was for 15,088 hours and the proposal to increase the fare was meant to reduce the City's costs. Director Davis asked if there was any formal way for MTD's Board to give input. Mr. Allen stated that the issue would go to the May 13<sup>th</sup> Transportation and Circulation Committee (TCC) for recommendation to the City Council and there would probably be a decision by early June. Director Davis gave a little history of the service, noting that originally there was no charge for the service until there were people riding the bus as a pastime and the 25-cent fare discouraged that. Director Fahnestock suggested that there be a professional transit analysis of usage, tourists vs. residents. Ms. Fisher stated she would have Planning Manager Steve Maas do an analysis. The General Manager noted that MTD is presently providing more than the required service and will continue with it until the end of May.

Marketing Manager Lynnette Coverly presented the new Pocket Map that was mostly funded by MTD with some assistance from Traffic Solutions.

Ms. Fisher reported that Capinteria City Council voted to continue Measure D funding for MTD for 5 years for the Seaside Shuttle.

The General Manager reported that there would be public meetings for service changes and at the May 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting the staff will come back with recommendations that will include reductions to service.

Ms. Fisher reported that the bike rack to hold 3 bicycles is being tested on the new Gillig bus 601 and that it will be more costly than existing racks and the staff will make a recommendation regarding its usage at the next Board meeting.

The General Manager introduced Dale Hill and Andy Eklov of E-Bus who had brought a hybrid (diesel-electric) bus to MTD to demonstrate to the Board. Director Fahnestock asked if the South Coast Transit Priorities (SCTP) had included purchase of all electric buses and stated that the hybrid may be an alternative. Ms. Fisher noted that yes the SCTP was for electric buses but the price turned out to be too high. The General Manager stated that the hybrid 22-foot bus does have a possible application in the SCTP plan, perhaps as a Downtown Circulator and the technology is new to us. The Board recessed to the bus yard to view the demonstration at 10:50.

**11. Recruiter for General Manager Position**

Director Davis reported that the *ad hoc* General Manager Recruitment Committee had met and asked for two proposals from local recruiters but only received one from Alex Rodriguez of Diversity Consulting Group, LLC. Mr. Rodriguez presented his proposal. Director Fahnestock commented that it would have been nice to be able to compare costs but moved to direct staff to prepare a contractual document with an option to reduce costs where appropriate. Director Davis suggested that Mr. Estrada work with the Committee on this. Director Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**12. Other Business and Committee Reports**

There were no other business or committee reports.

**13. Conflict of Interest Code**

Trevor Large of the Law firm of Archbald & Spray LLC went over changes in the Conflict of Interest Code (COIC). Director Fahnestock questioned the free bus passes given to Board members and their families. Mr. Large said he would research that. Director Rodriguez asked that we have the COIC on the next agenda as an action item.

**14. Closed Session**

The Board went into a closed session at 11:10 regarding MTD Calle Real property. The Board came out of closed session at 11:45 and Chair Britton reported that there was no action taken.

**15. Adjournment**

Director Fahnestock moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Director Davis, which passes unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.